



kiniro 1 mosaic

Yui Hara

kiniro  
mosaic

1

Yui Hara



.....  
characters  
.....

SHINOBU OOMIYA  
(graceful)



ALICE CARTELET  
(bright)



KAREN KUJOU  
(free)



YOUKO INOKUMA  
(lively)



AYA KOMICHI  
(delicate)













TIME TO  
GET UP,  
SHINOBU!  
YOU DON'T  
WANT TO  
BE LATE!

LOOK,  
I HAVE  
THE  
AIRMAIL  
YOU  
SENT  
ME!

IT  
WAS  
ALL  
SO  
SUDDEN  
THAT  
IT  
NEARLY  
KNOCKED  
MY  
SOCKS  
OFF!

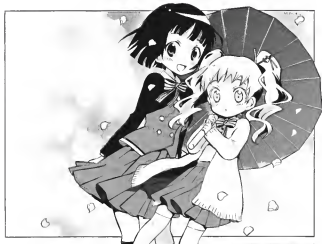
JUST  
A  
SURPRISE!

ACTUALLY,  
MY MOM  
KEPT YOUR  
VISIT A  
SECRET  
FROM  
ME.

THIS  
LETTER  
IS WHERE  
IT ALL  
STARTED,  
HMM?

O K A A Y !

UH-HUH!





























POK: STRAWBERRY AU LAYT





























KINTAROU













































↑ TURNED SIXTEEN

















## BLOOD TYPE



























































## FAVORITE FOUR-CHARACTER IDIOMS





















5 HOMEROOM TEACHER



LOUD ENOUGH TO HEAR IN THE CLASS NEXT DOOR













GIRL'S RESTROOM





























THAT'S THE ENGLISH GIRL DOING A HOMESTAY AT YOUR PLACE?



I'LL GIVE SHINORU THE PHOTOS WHEN THEY'RE READY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY.



YOU SAID SHE CAN SPEAK JAPANESE, BUT HOW'S LIVING TOGETHER? USED TO IT YET?

MM-HMM.



MAYBE THEY'LL CATCH HIS EYE...

IF IT'S NOT A BOYFRIEND, PERHAPS YOU COULD SHOW THEM TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER. YOU MODEL FOR...?



Hmmm...



TSAM!!

HAHAH. MAYBE!



YOU'VE GOT SUCH A SISTER COMPLEX.

IT'S LIKE I HAVE TWO LITTLE SISTERS NOW. THEY'RE SO CUTE.



PLEASE GIVE HIM MY BEST KISSKISS.



















# AFTERWORD



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP  
KURO MOSAIC VOLUME 1. I'M THRILLED TO HAVE IT  
COLLECTED INTO A PAPERBACK. TO MY EDITOR WHO  
ALWAYS TAKES CARE OF ME, THE DESIGNER, EVERYONE  
WHO'S SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF THIS SERIES,  
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, ALL MY READERS  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

YUI HARA





WHY I'M  
ALICE, OF  
COURSE!  
JUST LOOK  
AT ME!  
(TEE-HEE!)

EXCUSE  
ME. HAVE  
YOU SEEN  
A WHITE  
RABBIT?

UM...  
WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

SHINOBU IN  
WONDERLAND





kiniro  
mosaic

## Translation Notes

### GENERAL:

*Kiniro Mosaic* means "Gold-Colored Mosaic" in Japanese.

### PAGE 3

The Japanese school year starts in spring, when the **cherry blossoms** are blooming. Thus, the cherry blossom is a common image in manga/anime that are set at schools.

*Dorayaki* is a pancake snack with red-bean paste inside. Gift-giving is a pervasive custom in Japan (when you move into a new home, when you come back from a trip, when you visit someone, etc.) and considered proper manners.

### PAGE 4

**Sitting in formal Japanese style** is called *seiza*, which literally means "the correct way to sit." Though it is often viewed as a very traditional Japanese way of sitting, it actually came about after the Meiji Restoration in 1868, when Japan began to modernize and model itself more after European notions. It is notoriously uncomfortable for foreigners unaccustomed to this style of sitting, so the fact that Alice appears to be so practiced hints of her love of Japanese culture.

The concept of the **ideal Japanese woman**, known as *yamato nadeshiko*, gained prominence during World War II. Women were to be demure on the outside, strong on the inside, and fiercely loyal to their husbands and country. In time, the term has come to mean a "classic beauty."

**PAGE 11**

In Japanese schools, students change into **indoor slippers** and leave their outside shoes in shoe cubbies.

The **kokeshi doll** is a traditional wooden doll with no arms or legs.

**PAGE 12**

Writing **Japanese with English letters** is also called writing in **romaji** ("Roman letters").

**PAGE 13**

**Arigatou** means "thank you." Alice's pronunciation, *origato*, is slightly off to show that she's still learning Japanese.

**Konnichiwa** means "hello/good afternoon."

**PAGE 15**

Since addressing others by their last name is common in Japan, **calling someone by their first name alone or by a nickname** indicates a close relationship. By saying she'll call Shinobu "Shino," Alice is bragging that she's closer to Shinobu than Korosumo-sensei is, to show that she's pulled ahead in their "rivalry."

When Ayo says, "**Looks more like a duck to me,**" she mentions in Japanese a particular species of duck known as the spot-billed duck, or *korugoma*. The Eastern spot-billed duck is native to Asia.

**PAGE 17**

**Japanese high school** lasts three years, and students typically attend from the ages of sixteen to eighteen.

**PAGE 19**

**Teachers in Japan** check off incorrect answers and circle correct ones.

Ayo's mispronunciation of "even" as **eben** is a mispronunciation of *shinjirarena*, or "I can't believe it" in Japanese. Ayo accidentally combines a negative conjugation (*shinjirarena*) with a positive one (*shinjiraremosu*) to form *shinjirarenosu*. Afterward, Shino keeps ending her sentences with *-nosu*.

**PAGE 20**

**Moé** has become a common term in anime and manga to describe cute characters who inspire feelings of affection or protectiveness or to describe the emotion one feels toward such characters. Personal interpretations of what it means to be *moé* can differ. Shinobu has written the correct konji for it, but her explanation is indeed bunk. There are multiple theories about the etymology of *moé* (including Yauko's explanation). The konji for it means "to bud/sprout."

In the Japanese version, **moughah** is written as *mahe*. In older forms of the Japanese language, certain instances resulted in the *h* sound being silent or pronounced as *w*. Relics of this can still be found in modern Japanese.

**PAGE 21**

**Japanese-style fried eggs**, or *tamagayaki*, are several thin layers of cooked egg rolled up together as they're fried. They are a common breakfast food or a side in lunches.

**Shiritori word chain** is a game in which players must come up with a word that begins with the last syllable of the previous word in the chain. If they can't think of one in time, or think up a word ending in the syllable *n* (which never starts a word in Japanese), they lose the game. The original Japanese is *tamagayaki* (fried eggs), *kitakitsune* (red fox), *neriwasabi* (wasabi paste), *biriyada* (billiards). To keep the game going, Alice would need to think of a word starting with *da*.

**PAGE 26**

**Gothic Lolita** is a type of fashion inspired by Victorian England that emerged in the 1980s and is a subset of Lolita fashion—other examples include Prince Lolita (which emphasizes masculinity) and Sweet Lolita (which projects an image of innocence). Though it is sometimes assumed that Lolita fashion is meant to attract potential partners, those who participate in the style generally see it as a form of defiance or rebellion against how women are viewed and objectified in Japan.

**PAGE 31**

The Japanese word for “braid,” *kinpatsu*, literally means **gold hair**.

**PAGE 32**

**Kintarou candy** has existed since the Edo period. Kintarou ("Golden Boy"—appropriate for Kintaro Masaki) is a Japanese folk hero.

**PAGE 35**

Alice says, "**There are a lot of foreigners in Japan.**" The joke here is that the high school girl is not a foreigner but rather a Japanese girl who has dyed her hair blond. This style is known as *gyaru*, from the English word "goi," and typically involves heavy use of makeup and accessories, and sometimes tanned skin.

**PAGE 36**

Japanese households and businesses **splash water** outside of entrances in the summer to help ease the heat.

Ironically, Alice is eating a **Japanese-style breakfast** of *natto*, rice, miso soup, and *temagayaki*, while Shinobu has a more "modern" **Western-style breakfast** of toast. *Natto* is a sticky fermented soybean snack with a powerful smell, taste, and texture, and it's often depicted as a love-it-or-hate-it food.

**Oyama dolls** are typically dressed in traditional Japanese outfits and are considerably more expensive than the *kokeshi* dolls to which Alice compares Shino.

**PAGE 40**

Performing at the **Budokan** is something of a trope—booking this arena means you've made it into the big leagues as a music performer.



**PAGE 46**

**Radio exercises** are morning calisthenics that are broadcast to the public to encourage good health. Beginning in 1928 in Japan, the practice was originally a way to keep soldiers in shape. Eventually, they changed to a more benign version, and later moved to television (though they're still called "radio exercises").

**PAGE 49**

**Fighta/falta** is something said to cheer people on.

**PAGE 50**

In Japanese, the word Alice jots down for **cray cray** is **yabasu**, which is a colloquial way of saying the word **yabai** ("awful" or "dangerous").

**PAGE 52**

In the Japanese manga, the phrases used for **old soul** are **wakasa ga nai** ("I don't have any youthfulness") and **wakasa ga tarinai** ("I don't have enough youthfulness").

**PAGE 53**

**Bonsai**, the art of growing and maintaining small potted trees, literally means "planted in a container." With records dating as far back as 700 AD in China, it eventually made its way to Japan. Today, bonsai is considered an old person's hobby, which is why the present is such a downer for Shina.

**Tenjoubi amedetau** literally means "happy birthday." Alice has simply swapped out the English of the "Happy Birthday" song for Japanese.

**PAGE 55**

For **hunker down**, Shina uses *dakkaisha* in the Japanese version, a typical old-person saying uttered while sitting down. This lends further credence to the idea that, on the inside, Shina is older than sixteen.

In the Japanese manga, the term used for **glamour model** is "gravure idol," which refers to female models in Japan who pose for provocative photos, DVDs, and more. Taking this route is frequently a stepping stone for celebrity hopefuls, and a number of women in popular arenas, including sports, have done gravure photo shoots.

**PAGE 63**

**Hayashi rice** is the name of a dish consisting of rich beef stew served over rice. The names for both Hayashi rice and curry rice are said in English. *Gohan* is the Japanese word for rice.

**PAGE 64**

*Hajimete no Otsukai* ("My First Errand") is a television show in which small children are sent out on their first errand "alone" (to deliver something, buy something, etc.), while they're actually being filmed and looked after by the show's staff. A child's first time going out alone on an errand is considered a big milestone.

**PAGE 65**

**Wakabamart** means "four-leaf clover mart." Yui Hara has another manga called *Wakaba Girl*.

**PAGE 67**

In Japanese, the word for **stock** is *kabu*. Alice is holding a type of turnip called *kabu*.

**PAGE 80**

**Rich family** Karen is described as an *qiau-sama* in Japanese, which is a rich girl archetype in manga, anime, and other forms of Japanese media. Typically, *qiau-sama* lack common knowledge, such as prices being a serious concern for those less wealthy.

**PAGE 83**

**Shinobi** is another word for a ninja. Shinabu's name is written with the same character as *shinobi* is.

**PAGE 85**

**Four character idioms** are sayings and proverbs that are always presented as four characters, famous in Japanese and Chinese cultures. Generally, the meaning is more elaborate than what the four characters are literally saying. In Japanese, Alice's idiom is *hau/an/sha/toku*, while Karen's is *yu/kai/tei/ketsu*. Though Yauka and Shina's attempts are four characters long (*yaki/niku/tei/shaku* and *Hei/an/ji/dai*), they do not qualify as idioms.

**PAGE 90**

**Takayaki** are fried octopus balls.

**Tatyaki** are fish-shaped cakes typically filled with red-bean paste (but they come in other flavors too).

**PAGE 91**

**Gakuran** is one of the traditional styles of school uniforms for boys. The uniform is usually all black, with the top having a high collar and buttons running all the way down the front.

**PAGE 113**

Though a cold version of ramen (called *hiyashi chuuka*) exists, ramen is typically served hot, which makes Karen's request to **"make it hot"** redundant. Not only that, but Karen says the word "hot" in English.

**PAGE 116**

**Sh** happens to be the pronunciation for the character meaning "death," adding to Shinobu's fear.

**PAGE 118**

**Topknots**, or *chonmage*, are a traditional Japanese hairstyle for men. Though they are typically associated with samurai, in modern times they're mostly seen on sumo wrestlers.

**PAGE 120**

Aya's **wordplay** in Japanese is *Karen ga karen na hana wa mitsuketa. Kana hana wa karen!* ("Karen found a lovely flower. This flower will never wither!")

# kiniro 1 mosaic

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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